

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00931 101159Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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USLO RIYADH

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 0931

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS: SCHEDULE/SCENARIO

1. FOLLOWING IS DETAILED SCENARIO OF SECRETARY'S VISIT
TO DAMASCUS AS BEST WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN IT FROM
FOREIGN MINISTERS GENSCHEER AND DE GUIRINGAUD TAKING
PLACE PRIOR TO THE SECRETARY'S IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FINAL
DETAILS ON SYRIAN SIDE WILL BE ARRANGED UNTIL SHORTLY
BEFORE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL.

2. SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

1255 - ARRIVE DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.
SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR MURPHY, AND OFFICIAL PARTY DISEMBARK
FROM FORWARD RAMP AND ARE MET AT FOOT OF RAMP BY FONMIN
KHADDAM, DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH AL-KHANI, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL
FAYEZ NAHLAWI, FONMIN DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS HAMUD
SHOUFI, PROTOCOL OFFICER RASSEM RASLAN, AND DCM PELLETREAU.
STAFF AND PRESS DISEMBARK FROM REAR RAMP.

1305 - AFTER INTRODUCTIONS, SECRETARY, FONMIN KHADDAM,
AND AMB MURPHY WALK TO PRESS ENCLOSURE, A ROPED-OFF AREA

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ON TARMAC SOME TWENTY YARDS AWAY, WHERE SECRETARY MAKES
BRIEF ARRIVAL STATEMENT. REST OF PARTY MOVES TO ASSIGNED
VEHICLES (MOTORCADE ASSIGNMENTS SEPTTEL).

1310 - SECRETARY, FONMIN KHADDAM, AND AMBASSADOR
MURPHY ENTER ASSIGNED VEHICLES AND MOTORCADE DEPARTS
AIRPORT FOR MERIDIEN HOTEL (20-25 MINUTE DRIVING TIME).

1335 - MOTORCADE ARRIVES AT MERIDIEN HOTEL. FONMIN KHADDAM (PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY REST OF WELCOMING DELEGATION) ACCOMPANIES THE SECRETARY TO HIS SUITE AND REMAINS FOR A FEW MINUTES BEFORE TAKING LEAVE. OTHER MEMBERS OF PARTY MAY GO TO ASSIGNED ROOMS (ROOM ASSIGNMENTS SEPTEL).

1525 - (FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOT YET ADVISED EXACT TIME; COULD BE 1600 OR EVEN 1630) SECRETARY, HABIB, ATHERTON, MURPHY, SABBAGH, AND PELLETREAU DEPART FOR MEETING WITH FONMIN KHADDAM (5 MINUTE DRIVE). THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL PROBABLY HAVE WITH HIM AT THE MEETING DEPFONMIN ABDULLAH AL-KHANI, DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS HAMUD SHOULFI, AND TRANSLATOR/NOTETAKER SAMIH ABU FARES. DURATION OF MEETING UNCERTAIN BUT UNLIKELY EXCEED ONE HOUR. MEETING WITH PRES. ASAD (3 MINUTE DRIVE) CAN BE EXPECTED TO LAST TWO HOURS OR MORE. THOSE ATTENDING ON SYRIAN SIDE WILL NOT BE KNOWN DEFINITELY IN ADVANCE BUT WILL INCLUDE FONMIN KHADDAM, PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DR. ADIB DAOUDI, TRANSLATOR/NOTETAKER ASAD ELIAS, AND POSSIBLY DEPMIN DEFENSE GE. NAJI JAMIL AND CHIEF OF STAFF HIKMAT SHIHABI. FOLLOWING MEETING, SECRETARY AND PARTY WILL RETURN TO HOTEL. (FIVE MINUTE DRIVE).

2030 - DINNER HOSTED BY FONMIN KHADDAM IN HONOR OF SECRETARY AT MERIDIEN HOTEL. KHADDAM TOLD AMBASSADOR FEB 9 THAT WHILE HE APPRECIATED SECRETARY'S PREFERENCE FOR WORKING DINNER HE OBLIGED TO HAVE LARGER OFFICIAL
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AFFAIR ALONG LINES OF DINNERS HE OFFERS TO ALL FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THEIR FIRST VISIT. THESE DINNERS (BUSINESS SUIT) NORMALLY INCLUDE ON SYRIAN SIDE THREE-FOUR MINISTERS, SEVERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY DEPARTMENT HEADS AND PROTOCOL OFFICERS (WILL PROVIDE EXACT LIST WHEN KNOWN). ON AMERICAN SIDE KHADDAM EXTENDS INVITATION FULL OFFICIAL PARTY PLUS EMBASSY STAFF. WE ARE SUGGESTING THAT AMERICAN INVITEES IN ADDITION TO SECRETARY INCLUDE HABIB, ATHERTON, SAUNDERS, LAKE, CARTER, QUANDT, PLUS TARNOFF, SPIEGEL, AND SABBAGH, WITH AMBASSADOR AND FOUR-SIX ADDITIONAL FROM EMBASSY. IT UNLIKELY KHADDAM WILL PROPOSE TOAST ACCORDING PROTOCOL SOURCE. FONMIN, GIVEN THE CHOICE, NORMALLY DOES NOT TOAST BUT SUGGEST SECRETARY BE PREPARED AT MAXIMUM TO DELIVER BRIEF STATEMENT EXPRESSING THANKS FOR HOSPITALITY. DINNER LIKELY BREAK UP BY 2300. NO AFTER DINNER EVENTS ARE SCHEDULED.

3. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21:

0845 - AMBASSADOR MURPHY WILL ARRIVE MERIDIEN HOTEL TO ESCORT SECRETARY TO MEETING WITH AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND SPOUSES (TOTAL 60-75) AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.

0855 - THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR MURPHY DEPART FOR AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE (5 MINUTE DRIVE). IT IS SUGGESTED THAT SECRETARY BE ACCOMPANIED BY THOSE OF PARTY WHO WILL HAVE ATTENDED FEB 20 MEETINGS WITH KHADDAM AND ASAD. KHADDAM TOLD AMBASSADOR FEB 9 THAT SCHEDULING OF SECOND MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OR WITH HIMSELF WOULD DEPEND UPON RESULTS OF PREVIOUS DAY'S TALKS. IF NEITHER MEETING IS SCHEDULED, SECRETARY WILL CALL ON PRIMIN KHULAYFAWI AT PRIME MINISTRY (TEN MINUTE DRIVE). FOLLOWING THIS MEETING (45-60 MINUTES) SECRETARY WOULD RETURN TO MERIDIEN HOTEL (10 MINUTE DRIVE) AND REMAIN THERE UNTIL DEPARTURE FOR AIRPORT.

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1045 - STAFF AND PRESS DEPART MERIDIEN HOTEL FOR AIRPORT.

1120 - SECRETARY DEPARTS FOR AIRPORT.

1145 - DEPARTURE STATEMENT TO PRESS WHICH WILL BE GATHERED IN ROPED-OFF AREA NEAR AIRCRAFT (OR IN ADJACENT VIP LOUNGE IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER) FOLLOWED BY MAXIMUM TEN MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH PRESS. SAME SYRIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE ON HAND FOR DEPARTURE AS WELCOMED SECRETARY ON ARRIVAL. ALL THESE OFFICIALS WILL ACCOMPANY SECRETARY TO FOOT OF RAMP AND BID FAREWELL TO HIM THERE.

1200 - DEPARTURE.
MURPHY

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NNN

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